

CHATHAM COUNTY CONNECTION



April 19, 2015



Al Scott
Chairman



Helen Stone
District 1



James Holmes -
District 2



Tony Center
District 3



Patrick Farrell
District 4



Yusuf Shabazz
District 5



Lori Brady
District 6



Dean Kicklighter
District 7



Priscilla Thomas
District 8

For more information on the current district lines visit:

<http://www.chathamcounty.org/Government/BoardofCommissioners/CommissionDistrictMaps.aspx>

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Al Scott, Chairman

Dr. Priscilla Thomas' dedication to public service started long before she was elected to represent the 8th district on the Chatham County Commission. Her years as both a teacher and later a school principal she has had a passion for mentoring the youth of Chatham County. To that end, she continued that passion after she was elected by creating

the Chatham County Youth Commission and the Summer Bonanza Partnership, Inc. Both of these highly successful programs have been recognized by other communities throughout the State of Georgia and other parts of the country for their innovation and creativity. While the Youth Commission is for High School students, Summer Bonanza is for Elementary and Middle School students. Most people know about the Youth Commission, Summer Bonanza succeeds, under the radar, in helping to enrich students in different academic disciplines throughout the summer and if need be throughout the school year. This is not your typical summer school program as every weekend is scheduled with either a field trip or a hands-on demonstration designed for the de-

velopment and enrichment of the youth. For those interested in enrolling please call Dr. Priscilla Thomas at 652-7878 or e-mail her at gfgordon@chathamcounty.org attention Dr. Thomas.

Please note the calendar of community events schooled by the Coastal Georgia Indicators Coalition on page 4. When I was elected Chairman I made it my commitment to have a long range strategic plan for the betterment of this community. To that end we have partnered with the Coastal Georgia Indicators Coalition to solicit public input on multiple topics to help develop a comprehensive strategic plan that will address community needs. These events are open to the public and citizen input is encouraged for the betterment and well-being of our community. For further information on the

scheduled events please visit coastalgeorgiaindicators.org.

Live Oak Public Libraries is preparing their annual Summer Reading Program children and teens. They are also providing a number of additional educational resources that include a free tutoring program for students of all ages, language learning online and service to be better prepared for school tests on all grade levels. All of their educational tools can be seen at liveoakpl.org.

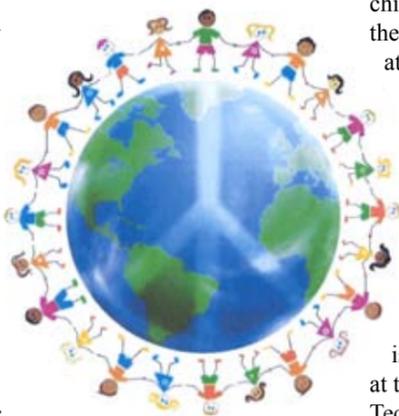
No one can ever doubt that Chatham County is a beautiful place to live and work. I know that I speak for all commissioners when I say we appreciate your trust and confidence in us as we continue our commitment to serve you. ■

Summer Bonanza Partnership, Inc.

Summer Bonanza Partnership, Inc. was founded in 1991 by Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas, Vice Chair – District 8 Representative Chatham County Commission. Dr. Thomas is also a retired educator. Her goal was to provide an opportunity for the local business community and the government to come together as partners in the development and enrichment of youth in helping to prepare at-risk youth ages 7 to 14 in all academic disciplines through summer development and enrichment programs as well as a year round technology center and tutorial program in Chatham County. To date Summer Bonanza has touched the lives of some 4,700 youths as well as parents, community volunteers, corporate partners, business supporters. The partnership calls upon a current slate of 60 volunteers which eliminates the need for paid staff positions. In 2006 Dr. Thomas added an outreach segment to the program to catch

those youths between the ages of 15-19.

When youths apply to enter the Summer Bonanza Partnership they learn about the



opportunities and challenges they can expect. In turn they are held accountable to Dr. Thomas' high standards of excellence. She believes that every child can learn and given opportunities they can excel in all areas of their lives.

Since the inception of her program Dr. Thomas has made great strides in the development and enrichment of the participants. Students that started with Summer Bonanza have stayed with the program. When they are too old to

participate they return as volunteers. The Board of Education has granted Dr. Thomas access to each student's teachers. She and volunteers regularly check on each child's performance in the classroom and their attendance. If a student's grades or attendance starts to drop they act immediately. If it's a problem at home they address those issues with parents or guardians. If tutoring is needed that child is set up with a tutor at the Moses Jackson Technology Center. Summer Bonanza partnership has achieved measurable results in participant's academic achievement and school attendance. More than half of participating youths earn honor role. School attendance rates exceed 97%. A positive correlation can be made between school attendance and Summer Bonanza attendance, which also exceeds 97%. For information or to register for Summer Bonanza please call Dr. Priscilla Thomas at 652-7878 or email gfgordon@chathamcounty.org Attention Dr. Thomas. ■

Summer Bonanza 2015 Schedule of Events

June 6	Youth & Parent Orientation	9AM - 1PM
	All participants and their parents will meet at the Moses Jackson Center for orientation. Interactive program on Treating others, Attitudes, Thoughts, Change, Kindness and Character, and Setting Goals.	
June 13	Health & Fitness Funday...Remix	9AM - 1PM
	Forsyth Park & Farmers Market	
June 20	The Savannah Chapter of the Links	9AM - 1PM
June 27	"Time Served" at the Chatham County Jail	9AM - 1PM
	a presentation on Law & Order Cpl. Ron Robinson, Cpl. Rhonda Byrant-Ellerby & Ms. Angelia Dorsey Chatham County Sheriff Complex, Chatham Parkway	
July 11	Community Service Project - TBA	9AM - 12PM
	Lunch	12PM - 1PM
	Life's a Beach	1PM - 4PM
	The Jepson Center	
July 18	Health Rocks	9AM - 1PM
	Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens	
July 25	Youth Projects Due	9AM - 1PM
	All youth work on a project at home to bring it in. Any subject, any ideas. Winner will be announced at the Annual Awards Reception.	
July 30, 31, Aug 1	Washington DC Trip	

CHATHAM COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

JAIL BREAK CHALLENGE

1ST ANNUAL

FREEDOM IS ONLY 30 OBSTACLES AWAY...

JUNE 13, 2015

We are opening up our training course for ONE day to let the public run wild. See if you can survive the grueling 4.2 mile course. You must make your escape through 30 challenging obstacles and extremely tough terrain. If you make it, you earn your freedom. This is a challenge not to be taken on by the faint of heart. This event is designed to push participants to their limits both physically and mentally. It is not a family fun run, you WILL be pushed to the extreme.

YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED!!

Identity Safe Data Destruction Day

1321 Eisenhower Drive

May 2, 2015 9 am to 2 pm

WSAV, Shred-It, & Chatham County are partnering to help protect residents from identity theft by providing on-site shredders for sensitive documents. All paper shredded will be recycled. We will also be collecting electronics. The shredding is a one day event and electronics are collected regularly at the center.

3 WSAV Limit 5 Boxes Per Car **CHATHAM COUNTY RECYCLES**

Making sure it's secure.™

Natural Resources Conservation Workshop



Have the Best Summer Experience!

Enjoy Learning about Natural Resources June 7-11, 2015



Over \$18,000 worth of scholarships will be awarded at the workshop!!!

Available to Georgia's rising 10th, 11th, and 12th graders. (Students who have previously attended the workshop are NOT eligible).

- Located at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College (ABAC) in Tifton, GA
- Featuring field trips, classroom instruction, and recreational activities



The workshop focuses on the value, protection, and conservation of Georgia's wildlife, forestry, soil, and water resources, including conservation in Georgia's mining industry.



The application will be available on the website:
www.abac.edu/nrcw

Early Bird Application Deadline:
May 1, 2015



Natural Resources Conservation Workshop
Phone: (229) 391-5072 Fax: (229) 391-4791
SPONSORED BY:
GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICT SUPERVISORS
GEORGIA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY
ABRAHAM BALDWIN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE



FEMA Emergency Financial First Aid Kit

Ready or not, hurricane season is just around the corner. The season runs from June 1st to November 30th and is usually when people really start thinking about severe weather. However, natural or man-made disasters can happen at any time throughout the year, and your chance at surviving will depend on whether or not you are ready.

With that in mind, a new and exciting initiative was launched at the beginning of the year to keep Chatham County employees informed and educated about threats to our area. With the help of department leaders, the Chatham Emergency Management Agency has been training employees on how to develop a Family Emergency Plan and the importance of keeping it current. This year's goal is to have every employee develop a plan now and understand that an emergency can happen tomorrow, not just during Hurricane Season. Because every county resident is vulnerable, we would like to share the

information with you.

One of the major elements of this training is the FEMA Emergency Financial First Aid Kit (EFFAK). The EFFAK is a twenty-five page document made up of checklists and forms. The checklist is designed to take the guess work out of planning and help families compile comprehensive lists of personal household information, documents and account information.

Each checklist has three columns: "Have", "Need" and "N/A". Some of the cards included in the list are ones you carry every day in your wallet, such as Driver's License, Owner's Card or Insurance Card. To get started, each card carried in your wallet should be copied and added to the packet of documents you are collecting. The documents you are gathering are considered vital; so plan to store them in a fire-proof box or safe. The bank safe deposit box is a good place to keep them, but getting to them after a disaster could



take quite some time. Your insurance policies, mortgage and/or rental documents may be needed right after a disaster in order to rebuild your life. In addition, the forms are a guide to organizing your household, family, employment, payments and possibly things you haven't thought about.

Your whole life will be compiled into a file that has everything you might need to cancel

household services if your home is destroyed. Even worse, if something were to happen to you, your children, spouse or siblings will have not have to track down documents to manage your estate. The EFFAK will help you organize your life in to one box for any emergency or unexpected situation. To download the EFFAK, visit FEMA.gov. ■

Wireless Emergency Alerts

Using mobile devices as a tool when alerting the public of an emergency



Image found at: www.ctia.org/your-wireless-life/consumer-tips/wireless-emergency-alerts

According to National Research, 91% of Americans own a cell phone and 56% of those cellphones are smartphones. Mobile devices have become an important part of our culture, so it only makes sense to use them as a tool when alerting the public of an emergency. Together, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the wireless industry have developed a text-like messaging system that alerts cell phone owners of an emergency. This latest revision of the system is known as Wireless Emergency Alerts or WEA. By creating this program, short emergency messages can be distributed to WEA capable phones automatically in geographic areas or across the United States if necessary.

After an extensive approval process, the Chatham Emergency Management Agency (CEMA) is a participating member in this program. Last year, CEMA purchased software to allow the agency to issue localized emergency messages to anyone physically located in Chatham County at the time of the emergency (residents and visitors). By default, all WEA capable cell phones are set to alert for the following messages:

- National level alerts issued by the President of the United States
- Localized alerts involving imminent threat to life safety
- Localized and State level alerts related to missing children (AMBER Alerts)
- Localized alerts related to extreme weather

WEA works by allowing credentialed National, State and Local governments the ability to send alerts regarding public safety emergencies or potential threats. The benefit of WEA is that it is mobile. By sending the WEA message to the cell towers in the threatened area, anyone connected to that tower will receive the alert. Even if you live in another part of the County, when you are visiting Chatham County, you will receive any WEA messages for Chatham County and vice versa. These free messages are no more than 90 characters and should include the following information:

- Who is sending the alert
- What is happening
- Who is affected
- What action to take

WEA capability is just another way CEMA is working to ensure possible life saving emergency information is relayed to the citizens of Chatham County when every second counts. While WEA messages are far reaching, CEMA will continue to use proven methods of alerting such as:

- **Emergency Outdoor Warning Sirens:** activated for tornado warnings and intended to alter persons outside to seek shelter
- **CEMA Alerts:** a free email distribution group. To sign up for CEMA Alerts, visit the CEMA website (ChathamEmergency.org) and select the link
- **Text Messaging:** a free text message distribution system. To sign up for text messaging, simply text "Follow ChathamEMA" to 40404.
- **NOAA Weather Radio:** Information from the National Weather Service is regularly monitored and the Weather Radio will alert you when severe weather is threatening or approaching. ■

Hey, There's an App for That



To download, visit the App Store and search for "ChathamEMA".

Developing a family preparedness plan and getting up-to-date emergency information has never been easier thanks to the new CEMA App. With the touch of a finger, users can access the latest weather information, live radar and alerts. The app has a built-in NOAA weather radio that can be accessed when users are not near a television and need updates during a severe weather event. After a storm or significant incident, power outages and damage reports can be submitted through the app, along with images and contact information that might be helpful to first responders.

Because preparedness and education is a prime focus at CEMA, we built a feature to help take the guess work out of developing a family emergency plan. The "My Plan" feature allows users to discuss and share with

friends and family their personalized strategy to surviving a disaster, as it can be emailed or shared on social media. Emergency contacts, medications, school or work information and meeting points both in and out of town, can be listed in case the family gets separated.

Additionally, the My Plan section gives users a recommended list of emergency supplies that can be checked off and shared as a kit is built. The best part, the app is free and available on all iPhones and Android devices. To download, visit the App Store and search for "ChathamEMA". Be sure to check your Wi-Fi settings as some servers may block content that allows features to run properly. The app was funded through the Emergency Management Performance Grant and was built by MyEMAapp.com. ■

WALK Georgia: UGA Extension's Walk Georgia Fighting the Obesity Epidemic in Chatham County

In an effort to combat obesity in the state, University of Georgia Extension's Walk Georgia is working to equip Chatham County residents with the knowledge and tools needed to be more physically active. Walk Georgia is a web-based program offered at no cost to all Georgians.

Participants register for Walk Georgia through the website, www.WalkGeorgia.org and track their physical activity data online. When you register for this free Chatham County Extension program you will also gain access to a weekly wellness newsletter with fast and nutritious recipes to make healthy lifestyle

choices. You can also participate in the Walk Georgia blog, found at <http://blog.extension.uga.edu/walkgeorgia/>, supplements the online program, providing daily information ranging from recipes to website and app recommendations to information on state parks as well as health and wellness articles authored by Extension personnel. The program also maintains a presence on social media – Facebook, [Twitter@WalkGa](https://twitter.com/WalkGa) and Pinterest.

UGA Extension – Chatham County plans community wellness educational events and outreach programs encouraging adoption of

physical activity through Walk Georgia. You can participate as an individual, group or team through your family, school or work. To find out more information



contact the Chatham County Extension office by phone at 912-652-7981, Email at uge3051@uga.edu, or visit our website at www.ugaextension.com/Chatham to learn more about this free program. So



join the movement to better health for you and your family to "Move More and Live More" during 2015! Jackie Ogden, University of Georgia Extension-Chatham County ■



Coastal Georgia Indicators Coalition

Chatham Community Blueprint 2035

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

The Coastal Georgia Indicators Coalition is soliciting public input on multiple topics to develop a comprehensive long-range strategic plan. Come share YOUR VISION for the future of our community at one of the events listed below.

ECONOMY

TUES 3.24 (9:00 - 10:30 AM)
Chatham DFCS
761 Wheaton St., Savannah

WED 4.15 (8:30 - 10:00 AM)
United Way of the Coastal Empire
428 Bull Street, Savannah

EDUCATION

TUES 3.31 (9:00 - 10:30 AM)
United Way of the Coastal Empire
428 Bull Street, Savannah

TUES 4.28 (11:30 - 1:00 PM)
Chatham DFCS
761 Wheaton St., Savannah

TRANSPORTATION

TUES 4.14 (9:00 - 10:30 AM)
Chatham DFCS
761 Wheaton St., Savannah

NATURAL RESOURCES

TUES 4.21 (11:30 - 1:00 PM)
Chatham DFCS
761 Wheaton St., Savannah

HOUSING

TUES 4.21 (3:00 - 4:30 PM)
Chatham DFCS
761 Wheaton St., Savannah

SAFETY

TUES 3.31 (12:00 - 1:30 PM)
United Way of the Coastal Empire
428 Bull Street, Savannah

TUES 4.28 (9:00 - 10:30 AM)
Chatham DFCS
761 Wheaton St., Savannah

HEALTH

TUES 4.14 (11:30 - 1:00 PM)
Chatham DFCS
761 Wheaton St., Savannah

THURS 5.7 (8:30 - 10:00 AM)
Candler Hospital
5353 Reynolds Street, Savannah

visit <http://www.coastalgaindicators.org> or call (912) 651-1478 for more information



MAKE A SPLASH™

AN INITIATIVE OF



Saturday, May 16
9:00AM - 1:00PM
ENROLLMENT IS FREE!

To register, call CCAC @ 912-652-6793

Registration ends May 1st



Summer Reading @ Live Oak Public Libraries

June 1-July 30, 2015

For children & teens up to 18 years old

Keep track of your reading! Receive rewards & prizes!
Special activities and programs all summer!



Live Oak Public Libraries Educational Resources

FREE TUTORING: Online homework help through your library!
More than 2,000 certified tutors available online
3 to 10 p.m. daily for students of all ages!

A to Z databases: our NEW job search, reference and mailing list database including 30 million business & executive profiles & 220 million residents. Ideal for sales leads, mailing lists, market research, job searches, finding friends and relatives, and much more!

Learn-A-Test: Online practice tests, exercises and skill-building courses for all grade levels in math, reading, social studies, writing, college prep & more.

Rocket Languages: Language learning online! Spanish, French and more!

GeorgiA Library Learning Online (GALILEO): 100+ databases indexing thousands of periodicals and scholarly journals. Also GALILEO for Kids!

Gale Biography in Context: More than 432,000 biographies of more than 340,000 people with more than 538,000 articles.

Gale Literature Resource Center: Great resource on literary figures!

And those are just a few of your library's resources! To access all of the library's educational tools, visit www.liveoakpl.org